



ASTORIA HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Sponsored by

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

August 25, 1966  
2:00 to 5:00 P.M.

We extend a warm welcome to our German guests, Regatta visitors, and local Astorians. Astoria, being the oldest city west of the Mississippi River, has many historically significant locations. Playing an interesting role in the history of this area are several homes which we are featuring on this tour.

The numbers of the following descriptions correspond with the numbers on the map denoting the locations of these homes. Each home is designated by the name of the present owner.

1. CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 441 - 8th (Flavel House)

The Flavel House was completed in 1887 by Captain George Flavel. He sailed his own ship around Cape Horn to Astoria in 1849, continued in the shipping business, organized the Bar Pilots, and became their first licensed pilot. When taxed out of existence as a private home, it was deeded to the County for public use. For a nominal sum it became the property of Clatsop County Historical Society.

An outstanding example of Victorian Architecture, it is a reminder of a past era. Fine artisan workmanship is evident on the exterior. The hand-carved mantles on the six fireplaces, and two rare stair-railings of hand-turned hardwood--black walnut at the rear of the hallway and maple which leads to the four-story cupola from which the Captain had a view of the city and the river.

2. HARRY SWANSON, 3652 Duane St. (Benjamin Young House)

This home was Mrs. Swanson's grandfather's, built in 1888. He was a local salmon packer and took considerable time and planning to build his "Big House" on Homes Hill. The house was built by Mr. Palmer, an Englishman. The posts and underbeams are twice as thick as those ordinarily used in building specifications. Ben Young planned his house to last many years and it has never been out of family ownership.

Many of the lovely furnishings and appointments are of the original installation--from Ben Young's early American Winthrop desk to his black, horse-hair sofa where he took his afternoon nap.

3. DOROTHY STONE KINNEY, 690 - 17th St. (Foard House)

The home of Mrs. Kinney was built in 1888 by mercantilist Martin Foard. It was purchased in 1910 by B. F. Stone, a salmon broker. The home has been in the Stone Family since that time.

The interior of the home is blessed with many Victorian pieces and one should take particular note of these. Among these are the unusual wainscoting in the entrance hall, the large gold family portraits, memorable antiques, and persian rugs.

4. DR. E. HARVEY, 1687 Grand Ave. (Judge W. H. Gray)

Dr. and Mrs. Harvey own the home which was built in 1870 for Judge or Captain Gray, who had a picturesque career which encompassed both historical and political fields. He engaged in steamboating, was a Republican state senator, and County Judge. He died in this home in 1902.

(error)  
J H D  
Gray



The home is built entirely of cedar. The exterior has not been changed except for the addition of a small porch. Inside, one wall between the parlor and sitting-room has been removed, and one hall door eliminated. The Harveys have beautifully furnished their home with antiques from both of their families.

5. PAUL G. WILLIAMSON, 1331 E. Franklin Ave. (Captain Charles Brown) *(Hiram) over*  
While the house is being restored natives are informing the Williamsons of their possession of the oldest dwelling in the oldest city west of the Rocky Mountains. The house was built in 1854 in "Adairville" (East Astoria) for Captain Brown. The house was moved to the business section in 1868 on 12' by 12' runners (which later became part of the sill structure), floated down the Columbia on a barge, and pulled by oxen to the present site. The house was not damaged in the process.

The Astoria Fire of 1922 narrowly missed the house. Most of the window panes are in original sashes, only two panes were lost in the Columbus Day storm of 1962, and after over a century of wind and rain the lap-siding are deeply worn. Points of charm to note are the black walnut balustrade staircase, the grain wood used in the door and window casings, two sets of sliding doors, plus a dada in the billiard room grained by an artist who won first prize at the World's Fair.

6. C. W. HALDERMAN, 469 Bond St. (Hobson House)  
Built in 1863 by John Hobson, a pioneer who came from England in 1843 and joined the "Great Migration" wagon train led by Marcus Whitman. This home has remained in family ownership, the son-in-law and granddaughter being the present owners. Mr. Hobson was a cattleman, banker, and a collector of customs. The combination of the beauty of the Victorian style of architecture and the durability of sturdy cedar construction, this house is believed to be the third or fourth oldest structure still standing in Astoria. Built before fills were made, the house stands on the original level of the city. One addition made to the original structure was a kitchen where the back porch had been; seven outside doors were also reduced to two.

Among articles of furniture from the original house are a scalloped table, a carved walnut sofa and rocker, and a tufted chair. Two mantle clocks and brass candle-sticks came around the horn in sailing ships and a paisley scarf was brought across the plains.

7. VEIKKO LEPPINEN, 162 W. Commercial, (Fritz Johanson)  
Fritz Johanson was a mill owner when this house was built in 1919. The present owners have been in the antique business for many years and have numerous interesting items furnishing the house.

During the recent remodeling, picture windows and a balcony over-looking the Columbia River were added. An important historical note of the house is the bulkhead which faces Commercial Street. The graystone came from the original post office which was constructed more than a century ago.